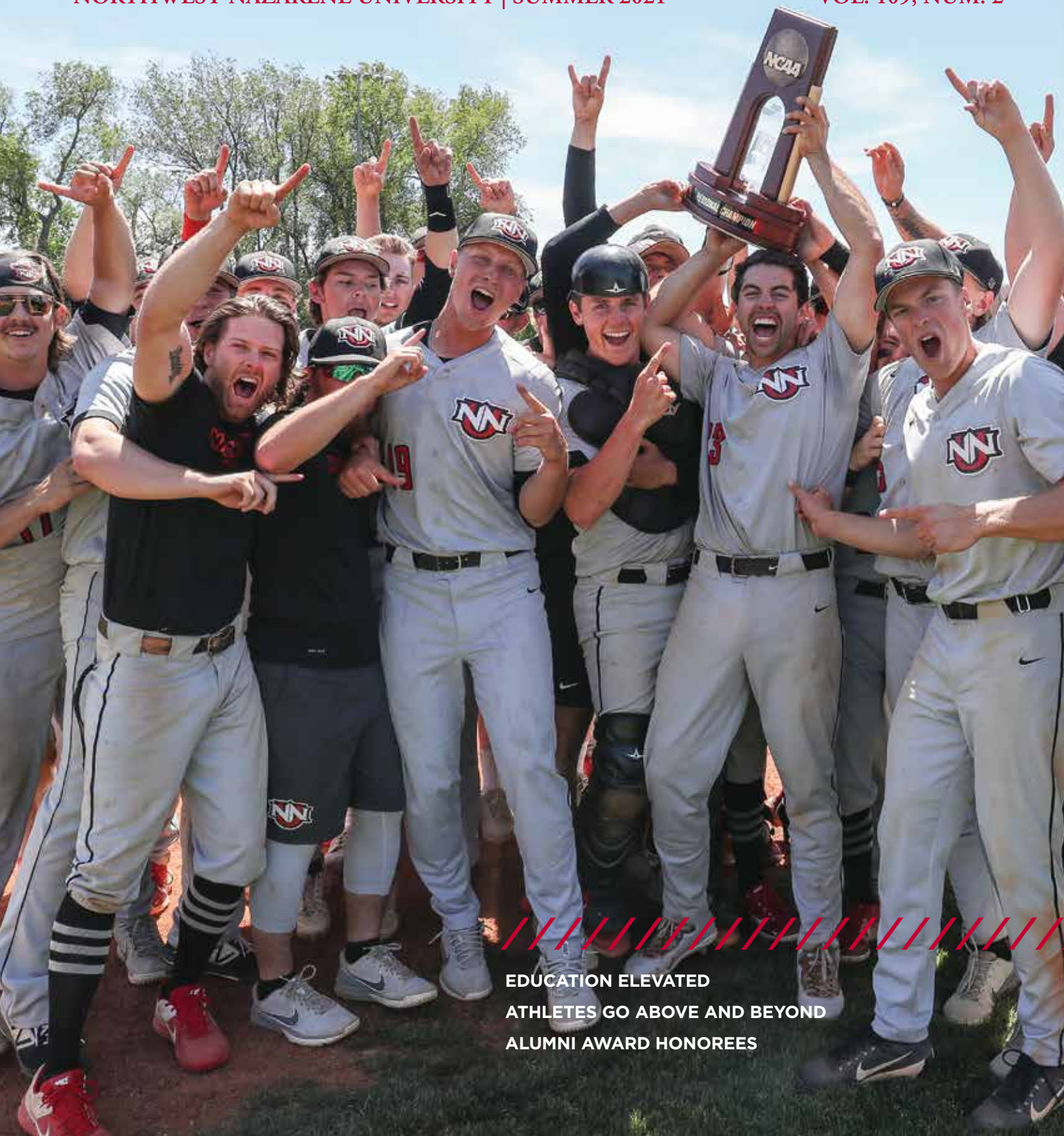


the MESSENGER

NORTHWEST NAZARENE UNIVERSITY | SUMMER 2021

VOL. 109, NUM. 2



EDUCATION ELEVATED
ATHLETES GO ABOVE AND BEYOND
ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES



Since 1913, students have been the reason NNU exists. Each time a student enrolls at NNU, we commit to doing all we can to faithfully steward that student through their journey of higher education. We have no greater priority than to enable each student to become God's creative and redemptive agent in the world.

You may have heard us use a phrase that has become quite common at NNU in the last few years: ***Here for Good!*** We believe that "here" is everywhere an NNU alum, student or constituent is—it's everywhere you are! And "good" is different here at NNU. It's not just a little word, it's elevated; it's a higher good that we strive for. Together, these simple words—with their elevated meanings—are what make NNU different; they are what make NNU, NNU!

Inside this issue, you will read articles that provide various perspectives on what we think an elevated understanding of ***Here for Good*** is all about. You'll read of a recent alum's journey as a student-teacher—in the middle of a pandemic—and how her elevated care provided hope and encouragement in the midst of the dark reality many in the realm of education found themselves.

You'll be invited to come alongside one of our NNU head coaches as she tells the story of hearing the devastating news that the baby she's carrying has a disease that is incompatible with life and how the NNU Community is offering her elevated support along this challenging path.

You'll read the reflections of an NNU class of 2022 student as he shares the many elevated experiences he has had, leading him



to conclude that, “NNU has provided a network and community that [he] can always call home.” And you’ll read brief reflections from several 2021 graduates as they share how their time at NNU shaped them in positive ways and prepared them well for their elevated futures.

These and other stories you’ll read demonstrate the ways in which NNU seeks to equip each of our students to understand themselves, learn about Jesus—the Truth Incarnate—and be transformed into one who will pursue Christ in the face of the challenges we encounter daily. This is evidence of an elevated approach to higher education.

Several years ago, we became familiar with the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child.” In our context, I’d like to suggest that it takes every member of the NNU Community for NNU to fulfill

its mission of transformation. These past 18 months have been unique for all of us, but throughout those months, there is one thing that hasn’t changed: our desire for NNU to be all it can be as we serve our students and the world in an elevated way. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of NNU as we “Seek first the kingdom of God.”

Blessings,

Joel K. Pearsall
President



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Four nurses embody the NNU spirit while facing COVID-19 in their unique roles.



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The NNU athletic staff rally around one of their own during a personal tragedy.



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Hannah Lawson shares her personal experience student teaching through a pandemic.



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Cover: The Nighthawks celebrate their GNAC title win, sending them to the NCAA Division II College World Series.

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The Messenger is published biannually by the Office of Marketing & Communications at Northwest Nazarene University. Postmaster, send address changes to The Messenger, c/o Northwest Nazarene University, 623 S. University Boulevard, Nampa, ID 83686-5897.



THIS YEAR'S MR. NNU WAS A PARTICULARLY JOYFUL EVENT, CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF IN-PERSON LEARNING AND EMBRACING THE *COMMUNITY FIRST* COMMITMENT.

JUST PRIOR TO MR. NNU 2020, STUDENTS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED THAT ON-CAMPUS LEARNING AND EVENTS WOULD BE SUSPENDED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

PRESIDENT PEARSALL SAID, "THIS YEAR HAS PROVEN HOW STRONG AND RESILIENT THE NNU COMMUNITY IS AND HOW QUICKLY WE CAN ADAPT WHEN WE BELIEVE IN THE MISSION THAT WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE OUT."



COMPASSION AMPLIFIED

*Four nurses share their experiences
working through COVID-19*

BY CAROLYN ST. MARY, CLASS OF 2005

Throughout 2020, healthcare workers around the world were faced with indescribable challenges. NNU nurses rose to those challenges in creative and tireless ways—wherever they found themselves—to help fight COVID-19 with the compassion and innovation characteristic of the NNU community.



KATIE MOUW ('19), RN STAFF NURSE

Katie Mouw has worked for two years on the Medical/Surgical and Orthopedic units at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho. Saint Alphonsus is a moderate-sized non-profit hospital with a variety of specialty units, including telemetry, cardiac, an 18-bed ICU, Emergency Department, Labor and Delivery, oncology and general surgery. Though her nursing career is newly started, Katie's experiences working during the pandemic have been formative for her future in healthcare and as a believer in Christ.

One of the hardest things about nursing during the pandemic has been giving the same quality care to patients with COVID that I would give to any of my other patients due to the time it takes to put on personal protective equipment (PPE). Early on, when I had a COVID patient and didn't have a personally-fitted N95 mask, I had to wear a PAPR. A PAPR is a large hood with a small plastic panel in front of your face and a large tube with a pump that produces clean air to breathe. It is loud and strange.

I HAVE REPEATEDLY SEEN
THAT IT IS THE COMPASSION
AND LOVE OF CHRIST SHOWN
TO OTHERS THAT MAKES THE
BIGGEST IMPACT ON PATIENTS.

strengthened me and helped me grow through the pandemic to be more mindful of caring for patients and their families in a holistic way.

NNU has a saying—"Here for Good"—which I believe means NNU is here to represent God and glorify Him in all they do as a university. As 1 Chronicles 16:34 states, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Our God is goodness personified and we are His creation,

Because of COVID-19, my mission to serve others through Christ's strength alone has only become clearer and more amplified. The world is ravished by sin and evil, and Christians need to be the light of Christ to those around us. If we don't share the love and goodness of God through Christ to those in need of hope, who will?



dedication, embodying compassion for her patients.

I began my career in the middle of the pandemic. One of the most challenging things has been that a lot of what we were taught never to do has been expected practice—things like reusing masks (such as the N95), keeping the same PPE on for multiple patients and limiting our time spent with patients. It has been especially hard communicating with our population who are hard of hearing or who suffer from dementia, because they rely on faces and

expressions to relay messages and understand and relate to others.

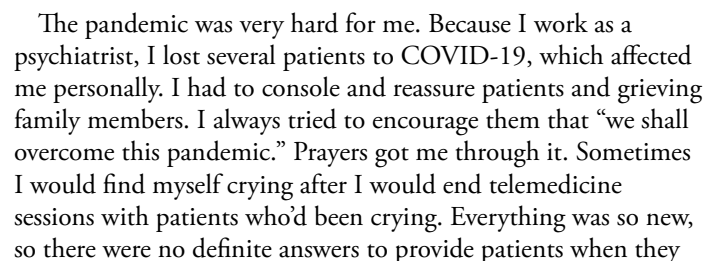
Watching patients be isolated has been the hardest thing by far. I don't think I ever fully realized the effects of having supportive people around you when you are sick. In my experience, it can make-or-break a situation. I have seen patients who lose the will to live and the only thing that could possibly bring it back would be close contact with family—but this pandemic has made that impossible. I have held so many people's hands and tried to be that support, but with the barrier created by the PPE, our ability

KAYDAH PARKER ('20), RN STAFF NURSE

Kaydah Parker is a floor nurse on an Oncology/Neurology/general medical floor at Kootenai Health in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, where she's worked for two years. It is a small magnet hospital with 329 available beds. Her floor has been converted into a half-COVID unit, and when numbers rose, into a fully designated COVID unit where they wore continuous personal protective equipment (PPE), only changing their outer layer of gloves between patients. Though she's faced challenges, Kaydah continues to be an example of

Healthcare workers need to exemplify compassion, understanding and resiliency regularly. COVID has amplified these. We have to have compassion for our patients who are terrified and frustrated at visitor policies. We have to have an understanding of what is going on and why things are constantly changing. And we have to have resiliency for ourselves and our

I am a nurse—this is what God has for me, and even though it is hard and I want to quit sometimes, this is where I am supposed to be. My education at NNU was not easy, and much like this past year of nursing, I wanted to quit at times. But I didn't because I knew I was making a difference in the lives of my patients. I am a nurse for good.



We've been blessed with three children who are eight, nine and 13 years old. Both my wife and I work in healthcare and could not work from home, but the schools were closed and our kids needed to do at-home learning. We were constantly trying to make the difficult decision of how to juggle work and our kids' virtual schooling. My mother often stepped in to help when we both had to go to work. Eventually, I had to inform my employer that I had to quit because of the schedule. They offered to let me work just two days for them from home; though this was a blessing, it also was difficult because of the loss in wages as well as the challenges of attending patients over the phone and checking on my kids' school work and Zoom meetings.

//////////

I BELIEVE THAT GOD IS ALWAYS
LOOKING UPON HIS PEOPLE.

The pandemic and its challenges taught us how to prioritize our necessities; we learned how to budget and grew in patience and trust in God.

Not only did my NNU education prepare me to care for my patients, but



Shannon became the nurse at NNU's Health Services during the 2020-2021 academic school year after serving for ten years as a nurse in family practice. Shannon serves alongside her husband, campus physician Dr. Bryon Hemphill. She acknowledges God's timing in bringing her to Health Services early in the pandemic, allowing the clinic to be fully staffed and able to handle the increase in patients. The NNU Health Clinic is a board-certified family practice clinic whose target audience is NNU students, faculty, staff and their families. It is the hope and dream of NNU and the Hemphills to grow the clinic to reach the surrounding community while facilitating a place where students in different disciplines of study—from nursing to counseling—can receive clinical experience on campus.

EDUCATION WAS KEY, WRAPPED IN LOVE
THAT PUT CHRIST IN THE CENTER OF IT ALL.

The other big challenge was being who we needed to be to those that came in with different perspectives. We had those who were full of fear of the unknown, needing assurance and education to live through this time in a safe but not controlling way. Then there were some who believed it was all a hoax and didn't want to participate in the health protocols created to protect our NNU community. Education was key, wrapped in love that put Christ in the center of it all. There were many times that the best thing we could do was pray with them. I am so thankful I work in a place where I can stop whatever I am doing and pray with whomever I am with at that moment. It was these special times connecting to students on a spiritual level that gave me what I needed to make it through this year.

Sometimes I felt like my job was the “Official Nose Swabber.” There is so much more to being a nurse, but finding ways to encourage, educate and pray with people kept me going. I believe that nurses need extra doses of compassion and empathy all the time, and during this pandemic, we needed it even more.

**WRAPPED IN LOVE
E CENTER OF IT ALL.**

“Here for Good” represents this past year well. We (the NNU community) came together and worked hard to stay face-to-face, and we DID IT!! I believe God has amazing things ahead for NNU, and I am so excited that I get to be a part of it. 🌹

COACHING *through* HARDSHIP

Coach Mary Trigg Ybarguen finds incredible support during an amazing season of soccer and a tragic season of life

BY CRAIG CRAKER, CLASS OF 2002

Women's soccer coach Mary Trigg Ybarguen discovered she was pregnant for the first time just after Christmas.

Her joy in that news was short-lived, though, as she soon found out her baby boy had Trisomy 18. Eighty-one percent of babies diagnosed with Trisomy 18 are delivered stillborn, while a majority of the other 19 percent pass away hours or days after birth.

"The hardest thing to hear is that his disease is incompatible with life," Ybarguen said of her baby, Rapha. "We are obviously praying for healing on this side of heaven, but it is pretty neat knowing that, with our faith, he is going to be made whole at some point."

While Ybarguen was reeling with the news, she received support from a trio of colleagues who had been down a similar road.

When Danny Bowman heard about Ybarguen's baby, his mind was flooded with memories of his last moments with his son. Paul Rush said it took his breath away and made him sick to his stomach. Molly Kling immediately was transported to the darkest days of her life.

The trio are a part of a group of individuals in the NNU athletics community that Ybarguen may soon join—those who have lost a child.

"We don't have an official support group," Kling said, "but Paul and Danny have been wonderful supporters to me personally. No

one wants to be part of this club, but once you lose a child, you're a completely different person."

Bowman's son, Titus, died of Batten CLN2 disease when he was 6 years old in 2016. Rush's daughter, Annie Grace, was stillborn in 2015. Kling lost twins in 2018—Phoebe was stillborn and Philip lived for only two hours.

"When we lost Annie, it felt like such a fracture," said Rush, the NNU men's basketball coach. "It feels like you don't know if you will get to the other side because it hurts so bad emotionally. I think it can be encouraging to have that conversation with people and to talk about it. For Mary, she can see that Molly is on the other side of it."

Hard Conversations

The last thing Ybarguen wanted to do was talk about losing her baby boy.

Ybarguen's coworkers made sure to give her space but showed her the love and care that defines the NNU athletics department.

Those who have been through something similar also made sure to offer whatever advice they could.

"I'm not overly positive. I wanted to bring some reality to the situation. It is dark. It's horrible, and you will never be the same,"



said Kling, a 2006 alum, former volleyball player and the assistant director for athletic services. “I remember sitting in the funeral home and Doug (English, NNU volleyball coach) emailed and said he didn’t know what to say, but he decided saying something was better than nothing—you’d rather have someone acknowledge it than ignore it.”

People acknowledging the news is easier said than done. Most people don’t know what to say, so they simply don’t say anything at all.

“Everyone feels like getting pregnant and having babies is a smooth, easy process,” Rush said. “It’s like a movie—it happens, you have the baby and it’s all good. But that’s not real life. And since it is really hard stuff to talk about, people don’t want to. The positive stuff is all that is talked about around pregnancy and babies.”

One of the most difficult conversations Ybarguen had was with Bowman, track and field and cross country head coach and 2005 graduate.

“It is always hard to plan for the death of your child,” Bowman said. “It is something someone should never have to do. However, (my wife) Bekah and I were so grateful for those that helped us through this specific process. I explained to Mary that Bekah and I chose cremation due to wanting to keep our child near us in case we move. The conversation was not the easiest, but I thought that information might be helpful for her.”

The conversations have been tough, but Ybarguen has valued all of them.

“It has been neat to see the kindness of people,” she said. “It’s an easy thing to say, ‘I’m praying for you.’ But people at NNU actually are and that is pretty special.”

Baby Rapha

About 12 weeks into her pregnancy, Ybarguen went in for an ultrasound after suffering a severe hemorrhage.

Thinking it was routine, she didn’t tell her husband, Chris, to come. It became evident pretty quickly that this wasn’t a routine appointment.

“The doctor said she was finding some things that were really concerning and that I should call my husband,” Ybarguen said. “I asked her to tell me and she told me. I called him and he came over, and we cried for a long time.”

The doctors told the Ybarguens lots of things would likely go wrong for the baby, including holes in his heart, kidney problems, intestinal tract outside of his stomach, his esophagus not connecting to the stomach, delayed growth, small jaw, small head, unattached umbilical cord and a non-functioning bladder, which would mean his lungs couldn’t develop.

A month later, few of those issues had shown up, which brought peace to the couple as they navigated figuring out what to do.

“If he wants to hang out, then I’ll let him hang out. It’s the least I can do,” Ybarguen said. “He’s not in any pain. He is just swimming around in there. He can hear noises now—so he hears me pray, and I play music for him.”

The Ybarguens’ prayers centered around getting through the

entire ordeal and for the baby to pass in peace. A few weeks later, Mary was reading her Bible on the couch. She felt like God told her to name the baby. The first name that came to mind was Rapha, a Hebrew name that means healer.

“It felt like God was saying, ‘You haven’t even asked for healing yet,’” Mary said. “So, Chris and I have changed our prayers to be for healing and for this not to be over yet.”

A Perfect Season

The NNU women’s soccer team wasn’t sure if they would play meaningful games during the 2020-21 academic year.

With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting sports nationwide, the Nighthawks eventually were given permission by the Great Northwest Athletic Conference to play a schedule as an independent.

What happened next is hard to believe.

A program that had only finished with a winning record once in the 20 years it has been an NCAA Division II program went 11-0, even defeating NCAA Division I Idaho State University.

“This is my third year at NNU, and it’s awesome that we have finally been able to pull through and be consistent with every single game,” said Chandler Kauffman, a junior from Redondo Beach, California. “Mary has been so committed to the team even with everything she is going through right now. That shows how great of a leader she is.”

The games were brought into a sharper focus for Ybarguen regarding their importance in the grand scheme of life. “It was a good reminder to me that soccer isn’t everything,” she said. “There are a lot of other things that we are all experiencing and going through and soccer should just be my mental break. It was enjoyable. It felt joyful. It was a good expression of escaping.”

Ybarguen initially told the soccer team in early April about her baby’s disease, but didn’t go into more detail. Easter weekend, though, the team had an Easter egg hunt on the field. Afterward, Mary read the Easter story to the group and then opened up.

“I shared more details—the painful part of it all,” Ybarguen said, “and the reason that I’m valuing this life is that Jesus died for all of us and valued all of our lives.”

“Normally, I’m not that personal. It’s been hard to be vulnerable, but they have given me so much grace.”

And as she navigates this difficult journey of pregnancy and the unknown, that grace has been life-changing. 🌹

On Wednesday, July 30, 2021, Rapha Christopher Ybarguen was born at 9:11pm weighing 2 pounds 12 ounces. He lived for one hour and twenty-seven minutes before he went back into the arms of Jesus. Mary and Chris were able to spend that time with baby Rapha singing to him and kissing him. Please pray for the Ybarguen family as they navigate this new grief. As Mary said, “Life truly is so precious and God is so comforting and merciful.”



THANK YOU

“To the people who give and make these scholarships, thank you! Thank you for making my dreams of graduating from college and becoming a teacher come true. I would not be where I am today if I hadn’t had the guidance and support from you all.”

— Emma Longoria



HERE FOR
GO **OD**

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/ / / / / / / /



Cultivating *HOPE* *in* **CRISIS**

An education major provides insight into the challenges—and hope—she encountered student teaching during the pandemic

BY HANNAH LAWSON, CLASS OF 2021

I vividly remember the first moments I stepped into the school where I would be student teaching. August 14, 2020—what a year to finally begin getting that long-term, hands-on career experience. Most of the lights in the school were off, and many of the doors were closed. It felt more like a ghost town than a school, and it managed to feel that way most of the rest of the semester, even when students finally came back in person for a short time.

The building was cold, and I was tired because my first day of student teaching was also the day my family moved into our new house. Imagine that—a teacher having an exhausting day outside of the classroom. I think many people forget that

teachers get really tired, really burnt out. I have only ever heard of teacher burnout talked about in education circles, which is not very helpful because no one really seems to know how to fix the problem. I had a lot of cold and tired days the rest of that semester, and sometimes, I wished my students, parents and coworkers had known that. Teachers are all so tired.

Within the first week of starting, my mentor teacher and I were stacking and rearranging desks to fit the new protocol of six feet apart (which, in a secondary classroom, is actually impossible considering class size), while trying to rush together a plan for online or in-person learning, whichever one the district decided to start with or later transition to. We needed to be ready for

anything, and that is exactly how the rest of the semester looked.

We were always rushing to catch up. Because we only had our students for a quarter of the time, no matter what we did, there were gaps, and kids were not getting everything they needed academically because it was impossible for us to do so in only 90 minutes a week. Our team sat much farther apart than the recommended CDC guidelines on four different sides of the classroom during our weekly planning meetings, chipping away at some kind of reasonable schedule for the semester. The same question kept coming up, though, no matter what we were working on: What can we cut?

The question was never what do we need to keep? We couldn't keep what we needed to keep—not all of it, at least. And so it was always what can our students most afford for us not to teach them this year? Because there were no other questions we could ask; we didn't have the resources.

We didn't have the resources for a lot of things, for a lot of students. I taught in the school district I grew up in—a Title One district. It is filled with teachers who care, administrators who are working overtime, staff who are building those important mentor relationships with kids; but, if you do not have the resources, all of the work can only go so far because people can only do so much.

One of my students attempted suicide, another was harshly bullying other kids, another was working to help support their family, another was refusing to keep their mask on, another was arrested, another was responsible for siblings during all the unstructured time they now had outside of school. They were hurting, struggling, and I couldn't do anything but try to make those 90 minutes a week work for something toward their learning. There was so little time and so much need. Every teacher I worked with verbalized their wish to be able to do more, to help more, to find a better way, but a lack of resources stymied a lot of our efforts to support our students better in the overwhelming need during this global crisis.

I spent a lot of time crying. I questioned whether I should even be a teacher, wondering, "Why does all of this have to be so difficult?"

I didn't quit, but I did think about it. And I'm glad I stayed.

This pandemic has taken an unimaginable toll on education, which was already a strained and struggling system to begin with. But in the moments where I most wondered if it was really worth it to even try, if anyone was getting anything out of what I was saying, one of my students would say how much they love my class; one of my students would share about their life with me; one of my students would understand and be excited and do better the next time we tested that skill.

And every time there was a little victory, something in me shifted. Our situation did not get any better during the semester I was there. In fact, we actually went back online the last three weeks, and for the students who were struggling already with minimal in-person time, this pushed them over the edge into absolute and total apathy toward school. It was difficult to

watch because I cared so much about their success. It was in that recognition of the difficult that came with observing my students struggling so desperately, knowing I was also struggling desperately in this space as both a student and a teacher, that I knew I was where I was supposed to be.

I have seen, both in myself and my peers who have student taught this year, that we all know full well how bad it can get. The number of crises one has to address as a teacher just over the span of a couple of weeks is absolutely astonishing, especially with a deadly pandemic encircling our communities. However, where we have seen the absolute worst from the beginning, we know there is so much good, so much hope, so much learning in store for us, for our students. We have found ourselves, unenthusiastically, in the middle of great turmoil in the education system. Not only did the pandemic bring up questions of how to deal with this better if something happens again, but it also brought about questions of what we need to change at the very core of what is taught in American education. My peers and I have seen how desperately our students need representation in our curriculum, conversation, role models. We have seen how easy it is for students who learn in more nontraditional fashions to fall behind and fix their mindset as incapable. And we

never want to see any of our kids slip through the cracks again—there is so much good and wholeness and value wrapped in the life of a single child, and they need to know how loved they are.

Student teaching this year taught me many things, but that is truly the most important takeaway: My students desperately need to know they are loved and valued. As a teacher, if I can show them that this is true, I will have done a greater job than I ever could have hoped for.

Learning only follows feeling safe, seen and respected. Where students know you care more about them than their grades, I have learned the grades will likely follow, especially if you love what you are teaching. Students will be excited about what you are excited about. And if you are excited about them, excited about the value they inherently bring to the table, they will find themselves falling in love with who they are and who they are becoming. 🌹

Hannah graduated in May 2021 and is headed to South Korea to teach English as a second language.

EMPOWERING *an* **INDUSTRY**

An NNU alum elevates the cybersecurity industry's capabilities with an innovative workflow solution

BY ANNA SALISBURY LEE, CLASS OF 2004

It's a strange thing watching your tiny start-up's bank account fill with 10 million dollars," said Dan DeCloss ('04). "That's definitely not something I thought I would ever experience." But that's exactly what happened on Monday, April 5, 2021, when PlexTrac, Inc., DeCloss's cybersecurity start-up, received some well-earned validation in the form of a Series A investment from three venture capitalist groups. His idea and scratch-built solution to make his own life easier as a cybersecurity professional was now getting the funding—and notoriety—that will enable it to become a game-changer in the industry.

DeCloss graduated from NNU in 2004 with a degree in computer science and a position in the master's program at





DeCloss, center, with the chief architect and vice president of product at the first annual PlexTrac company barbecue. Since 2019, PlexTrac has grown to nearly 50 employees.

the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, to study computer science and, more specifically, information security. The impressive post-grad acceptance also came with the opportunity to start his career with the Department of Defense (DOD) as a civilian cybersecurity specialist.

After working with the DOD and adding a couple more industry certifications, DeCloss moved to private sector consulting where he worked at companies like Veracode as a principal consultant in penetration testing. He has also served as a principal security engineer for the Mayo Clinic and a senior security advisor for Anthem. Immediately before starting PlexTrac, DeCloss was the director of cybersecurity at Scentsy, where he built their security program from infancy into a best-in-

class program.

DeCloss spent over 15 years working at high levels in all aspects of the cybersecurity industry, learning the major pain points of both practitioners and those in leadership before creating PlexTrac.

“I knew from experience that there was a gap in the industry for tools to streamline the onerous task of report writing for penetration testers and other offensive security specialists. Having built something to speed up my own reporting workflow, I began wondering if it could become a solution for others as well.”

Once DeCloss secured a couple of early adopters as customers, he knew “this idea has some merit if someone else is willing to pay for it.” One of those early adopters came on board as a team member, they gained seed funding from StageDotO Ventures, and, in the summer of 2019, PlexTrac as a cybersecurity SAAS solution and as a company became a viable reality.

“It was really exciting to see this idea that I had in my head and played around with for so many years suddenly start evolving into something much bigger,” DeCloss said. Based on the feedback and requests of customers and the growing PlexTrac team, what was initially a focused tool to make the reporting process faster by archiving findings from security assessments, creating a library of frequently used writeups, and enabling these items to be easily combined, visualized, and exported in usable formats soon grew into a comprehensive platform for tracking and managing all aspects of the cybersecurity workflow. The platform enables a new paradigm for security

work called “purple teaming,” where offensively and defensively focused security professionals collaborate on engagements to predict and patch security vulnerabilities.

In March 2020, the still tiny start-up faced the global COVID-19 pandemic and economic slowdown that tightened cybersecurity budgets, just like those in almost every other industry. However, the massive shift to a largely remote workforce and the vast increase in virtual transactions made effective cybersecurity more important than ever before. PlexTrac saw exponential growth in 2020 as security consultancies and enterprises with security teams sought ways to increase visibility of their security posture in the rapidly changing environment

and to stay better connected with team members, assessors and clients.

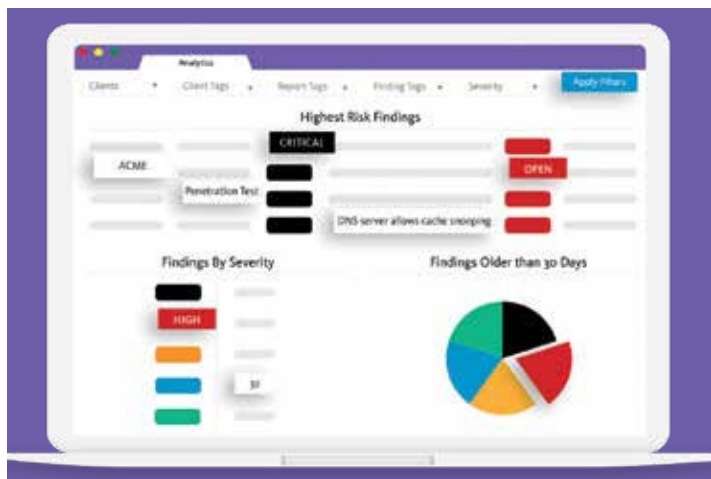
Other investment groups were beginning to take notice of this small company with a simple but untapped idea for making cybersecurity work more effective and efficient. In April 2021, Noro-Moseley Partners and Madrona Venture Group led a Series A funding round with continued participation from StageDotO Ventures to invest \$10 million in PlexTrac to rapidly grow the team and the platform capabilities.

John Ale, partner at Noro Moseley said, “Never before have security professionals seen the level of pressure they are now facing to protect their assets—and communicate with teams across the organization and outside of it. Dan brings personal experience and a clear vision to this challenge. We believe that PlexTrac is the solution that every security organization needs to succeed against current and future threats and are excited to support the team.”

From seemingly humble beginnings as a Nampa Christian High School graduate going on to a computer science program at NNU, DeCloss is making some big waves in a multi-billion dollar industry. And he is keeping it local by basing his company out of Boise rather than Silicon Valley or Seattle. DeCloss is a prime example of the elevated education provided in NNU’s exceptional programs led by world-class educators.

DeCloss said, “I was able to gain a strong foundation and connections to where I wanted to be all from the university where my family has a long history and my dad had a career as a math professor. I really valued my NNU experience socially, spiritually and academically.”

Learn more about PlexTrac at plextrac.com. 🔥



PlexTrac is a software as a service (SAAS) platform for managing cybersecurity work.



NNU COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM ADDS CYBERSECURITY CONCENTRATION

In response to rapid growth in the industry and the exciting career paths of alums like Dan DeCloss, the Department of Math and Computer Science saw the value of providing more in-depth coursework in the area of information security. Department Chair Dr. Barry Myers reached out to DeCloss for his expertise in developing the first cybersecurity topics course: Principles of Cybersecurity. DeCloss was instrumental in helping align the course to industry topics and standards and providing connections to industry experts.

One course soon proved to be insufficient to meet the demand and skills shortage. Cybersecurity professional jobs generally rank within the top 10 most desired positions and are among the highest-paid. To better prepare students to meet the specific needs of the information security arena, NNU brought on Associate Professor of Computer Science Kevin McCarty, who served in the industry in various capacities for about 30 years before joining NNU faculty.

Under Dr. McCarty’s leadership, the department has developed a 2-year cybersecurity concentration of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. The new offering just had its first graduate in May 2021, Jarrett Sheehan (Kennewick, Washington).

McCarty describes the concentration: “Our cyber students spend their time learning how to understand and combat cyber threats. As part of their education, they also are given community projects and have to do presentations to cyber professionals.

“Last year, students helped the Nampa School District create an email phishing campaign for staff. This year they conducted social engineering tests on campus and are now working with the Idaho State Police Cyber Forensics Lab putting their education to practical use in actual criminal investigations.

“As the program grows, we intend to extend our community outreach and work with cyber professionals and businesses in the area along with other government organizations such as the FBI and military.”

To learn about the Computer Science Department and its various offerings, visit nnu.edu/computerscience. 🔥



GRADUATES WALK THROUGH A CORRIDOR FORMED BY THEIR APPLAUDING FACULTY FOLLOWING THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021 MARKED THE 105TH NNU COMMENCEMENT, WITH SEPARATE CEREMONIES FOR TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONALS MARKING THE DAY.

RECORDINGS OF BOTH CEREMONIES CAN BE FOUND AT [NNU.EDU/COMMENCEMENT](https://nnu.edu/commencement)



ALUMNI NEWS

Catch up on classmate updates and recent additions

2000s

Dan DeCloss -04- and his Boise-based company PlexTrac, Inc. have raised over \$10M for the development of a cybersecurity collaboration and workflow software. Dan founded PlexTrac in 2018 after having previously worked at the Department of Defense, the Mayo Clinic and Scentsy.



Annie (Larlee) -11- and **Caleb Reynolds** -11- both received their doctorates from Florida State University (bottom picture). Annie received her Doctor of Nursing Practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Caleb received a Ph.D. in Social Psychology. The two met while at NNU as undergraduates.

2010s

Andrea Fratusco -16- was named the new Director for Critical Care and Emergency Services in the Saint Alphonsus Health System.

Joel Wilson -17- who holds his Ed.D. from NNU, was recently named the new Deputy Superintendent of Operations for the Idaho State Department of Education.

Marriages

1 Jess (Brennis) -20- and **Sam Roth** -21- on May 15, 2021 in Nampa, Idaho

2 Abby (Blum) -21- and **Luke Wicks** -21- on May 29, 2021 in Troy, Idaho

3 Courtney (Ritchey) -22- and **Kaleb Harper** -19-MA 21- on May 31, 2021 in Nampa, Idaho

4 Lexi (Tubbs) -18- and **Logan Wood** -19- on June 13, 2021 in Turlock, California

Births and Adoptions

5 Beverly Dee on February 1, 2020 to **Roxanne (Mitchell)** -17- and **Trevor Johnsen** -18-

6 Colton Alexander on March 19, 2020 to **Sara (Butkus)** -13- and **Preston Ake** -13-

7 Braylin on March 23, 2020 to **Brittani** and **Preston O'Malley** -11-

8 Kaden on June 28, 2020 to **Kendra (Day)** -15- and **Wes Caldwell** -13-

9 Mackenzie on August 6, 2020 to **Heather (Miller)** -09- and **David Pillers** -03-, joining Connor

10 Carter on January 29, 2021 to **Andrea (Beck)** -15- and **Joe Morgan** (11), joining Lyla

11 Issac John on February 14, 2021 to **Chelsea (Michelson)** -10- and Matthew Solem

In Memory

Ruby (Friend) Pearsall on February 24, 2021 in Nampa, Idaho

Evelyn (Reichenberger) Roth -44- on December 17, 2020 in Nampa, Idaho

Everett Slusher (50) on February 6, 2021 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Gordon Renschler (51) on March 4, 2021 in Middleton, Wisconsin

Francis Sutherland -51- on March 14, 2021 in Boise, Idaho

Ralph Miller -51- on April 25, 2021 in Walla Walla, Washington

Chester "Chet" Galloway -52- on March 17, 2020 in Longmont, Colorado

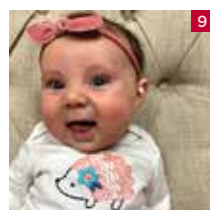
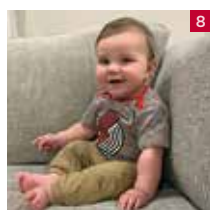
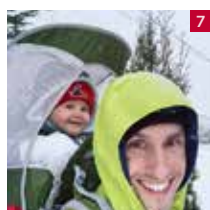
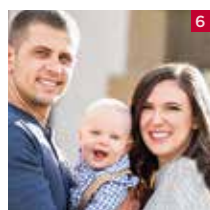
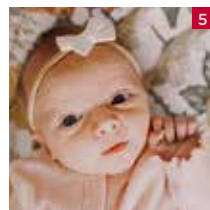
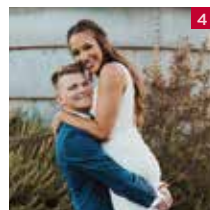
Erna Garner -53- on March 24, 2021 in Capitola, California

Clyde Slemmer (54) on January 30, 2021 in Sun City, Arizona

Harold Hughes -54- on June 18, 2021 in Midland, Texas



Submit updates, announcements and photos at [NNU.EDU/UPDATE](https://nnu.edu/update)



David Bauerle -55- on November 16, 2020 in Nampa, Idaho

Floyd Johnson -56- on June 18, 2021 in Nampa, Idaho

Merridee Yates -58- on February 16, 2020 in Taylorsville, Mississippi

Robert Hansen -58- on August 15, 2020 in Kirkland, Washington

David Yeend -58- on November 26, 2020 in Walla Walla, Washington

Nadine (Seward) Pierce -58- on March 9, 2021 in Yakima, Washington

Tom Nees -59- on January 24, 2021 in Arnold, Maryland

Allan Olson -59- on February 3, 2021 in John Day, Oregon

Rosalie Hatfield -60- on December 2, 2020 in Council Bluffs, Iowa

Trelawny Bruce (61) on May 23, 2021 in Orofino, Idaho

Marian (Cook) Fittje -71- on February 1, 2020 in Salem, Oregon

Sally Murphy (71) on November 30, 2020 in Chattaroy, Washington

Robert Guy -73- on April 6, 2021 in Mount Vernon, Washington

David Mallery -74- on February 27, 2021 in Post Falls, Idaho

Belinda Jane Rodriquez -85- on May 18, 2021 in Kuna, Idaho

Michelle (Thompson) Sickels -94- on December 13, 2020 in Pendleton, Oregon

Brenda Parker -95- on December 9, 2020 in New Plymouth, Idaho

Angie (Kee) Ketchum -01- on May 14, 2021 in Timnath, Colorado

Lisa (Bloomquist) Holland -09- on May 1, 2021 in Meridian, Idaho

Stephanie (King) Presutto -11- on March 12, 2021 in University Heights, Ohio

-year- indicates graduation year

(year) indicates matriculation year



Myron Finkbeiner -55- on June 27, 2021 in Nampa, Idaho

Finkbeiner, NNC alumni and former executive director of NNC's Alumni Association, went home to Jesus on June 27, 2021. Finkbeiner graduated from NNC in 1954 and began his career teaching and coaching in 1958. Finkbeiner made a significant impact during his time at Northwest Nazarene University and throughout his life as a living testimony to the work of Christ in his life. We honor and celebrate his many contributions to the University and the Kingdom of God and the legacy he leaves.



Honorary Doctorate Awarded: THE REVEREND DAVID R. RODES

David R. Rodes was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Ron and Alberta Rodes. His father was a pastor, rancher and farmer, but it was his mother who provided counsel to Rodes (at age 13) regarding the call of God that Rodes was sensing. He preached his first sermon at the age of 15. Rodes went to college at Pasadena Nazarene College (now Point Loma Nazarene University). It was during the summer between his junior and senior years of college that he met his wife, Lynette. They were married in July 1970. After graduation, he and Lynette moved to Kansas where Rodes later received his Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1973.

Reverend Rodes pastored in Idaho, California, and in Grandview, Washington, before accepting a call in 2000 to pastor the Puyallup Church of the Nazarene. In his 21 years of ministry in Puyallup, Pastor Rodes has become widely read in both contemporary and ancient works by scholars across history and denominations. One of his parishioners reports that Rodes “incorporates the wisdom of biblical truth into every sermon he delivers in such a winsome way that everyone who hears him leaves with something they can use.” Others have commented on his deep love and devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and have indicated that he is a man of integrity, a great friend and an encourager.

In addition to his love of the printed word, Pastor Rodes is passionate about engagement with the community and evangelism, both locally and abroad. His partnerships in

Mozambique and Malawi have led to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ in individual lives and entire villages through providing clean water access, helping local farmers learn the cattle industry and building churches.

Believing the missional effectiveness of the church is related to unity among believers, Rodes has helped develop a nondenominational group in the Puyallup area called “The John 17 Fellowship of Pastors and Churches.” This group gathers for mutual encouragement, powerful prayer and increased witness. He has also partnered with local churches to create the “Freezing Nights” program for the homeless in the Puyallup area. As a result, a grant was created by the Gates Foundation—and administered by a local university—that allowed for the Puyallup community and local congregations to learn about homelessness. This led to the creation of the “WrapUp” Ministry, which empowers families as they transition to stable housing situations. In addition, Pastor Rodes has developed partnerships with three elementary schools, which provide funding to assist students and families who experience food and shelter insecurity. Rodes is now feeling a call to be involved in initiatives for racial reconciliation in his community.

Rodes and his wife have four children and eight grandchildren. He is a motorcycle enthusiast that enjoys long-distance rides in the incredible beauty of God’s creation.

EMERITI HONORS

Six faculty and staff were presented with emeriti status at NNU's annual Celebration of Service

NNU recognizes devoted community members who have spent their careers elevating the student experience. This year, six of those individuals were honored with emeriti status: Terrie Bowen, Mary Curran, Barbara Howard, Mike Poe, Steve Shaw and Arnie Ytreeide.



TERRIE BOWEN, STAFF EMERITA

Terrie Bowen began her career at Northwest Nazarene College in 1986 as the switchboard operator, quickly transitioning into her role in the Business Office/Student Financial Services, where she has spent the last 34 years.

Though Bowen is quiet by nature, her impact on NNU and her students has been significant. Bowen helped develop and implement procedures for managing several institutional loan programs. It was important to Bowen that, before she retired, she helped NNU close out the extensive federal Perkins Loan program. She took on the responsibility of re-assigning all the loans back to the Department of Education and followed through by taking care of all the details, diligently working with our loan service provider and the U.S. Department of Education's central database for student aid, the National Student Loan Data System. Bowen was also instrumental in creating and overseeing processes for collecting student account debt. This process, which initially began as an in-house effort, has grown into structured relationships with three collection agencies.

Bowen actively supports campus life, has served on the Staff Policy Council, including a term as its Chair, and she regularly attends NNU sporting, music and art events.



MARY CURRAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITA OF SOCIAL WORK

Associate Professor Mary Curran began her teaching career at Northwest Nazarene College in 1990. Over the course of her thirty-one year teaching career, Curran implemented the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at NNU. She completed an extensive needs assessment and used

those results to craft a uniquely structured program that would meet the needs of working students. Throughout her time as the program director, enrollment grew from 20 students to 120 students.

Curran earned an associate degree from Antelope Valley Junior College in 1966, a BA from Point Loma Nazarene College in 1974, an M.Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1980 and an MSW from Howard University in 1984. Curran also became certified in secondary education and adult education from the University of Idaho.

In addition to her work as a professor, Curran has provided counseling in her role as an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. She has served as a member of the Idaho Social Work Licensing Board for 13 years and used her experience and expertise with the State of Idaho to educate students on the licensing process. She also has served the State of Idaho as a foster parent.

She reflects the love of Christ in every interaction and has been a mentor for countless students over the years. Mary mentored and taught five of the seven other faculty members of NNU's current Social Work department and has prepared hundreds of students for the field of social work.



BARBARA HOWARD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITA OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS & ADVISING

Associate Professor Barbara Howard joined the faculty at Northwest Nazarene College in 1979. Throughout her forty-two year career at NNU, Howard served as an advisor to students with learning disabilities and as the Director for Academic Support. Most recently she held the position of Associate Professor of Academic Success and Advising. Howard has also served on several committees and councils and has been Vice Faculty Marshall.

Howard earned a BS in Secondary Education Math from Pennsylvania State University and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Boise State University.

Professor Howard is also known for her service to many off-campus groups and organizations, serving her church as worship leader, Sunday School teacher and prayer coordinator. Additionally, she has served her local community as an Election Precinct Committeewoman, Election Party Vice-Chair, and a Canyon County Community Clinic volunteer. Whether creating curriculum for tutor training, coaching individual students, teaching math or serving her church and community, Howard's career is an excellent model of NNU's core values.



E. MICHAEL POE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF EDUCATION

Edward Michael Poe, professor of Education, joined the faculty of Northwest Nazarene College in 1997. During his 24-year career at NNU, Professor Poe served as professor of Graduate Education, Director of Graduate Leadership, Faculty Vice-Chair, as a faculty representative to the Board of

Trustees, as a member of many NNU committees and councils and as Faculty Marshall. Students and faculty at Northwest Nazarene University have expressed high regard for Professor Poe and his commitment to scholarship and student success. During his years of dedication to teaching and mentoring graduate students, he was honored as Graduate Professor of the Year.

Professor Poe graduated from Northwest Nazarene College with a BA in Biological Science, earned an M.Ed. in School Administration from the College of Idaho and completed an Ed.D. in Education from the University of Idaho.

Professor Poe has long been a leader in public education in Idaho and across the nation. As a student, he served as National Vice-President of the Student National Education Association in Washington, D.C. He served local Idaho schools for two decades as a junior high school teacher, vice-principal and principal. His impact, dedication and leadership as a junior high education administrator were recognized with honors by multiple groups including the Idaho PTA, Idaho Association of School Administrators and Idaho Education Association.



STEPHEN SHAW, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Stephen Shaw, professor of Political Science, first came to Northwest Nazarene College in the fall of 1979. Throughout his four-decade career, Professor Shaw served as professor of Political Science, Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, Division Chair of Social Science, Department Chair and as the Director of the Honors College. He also served as Faculty Chair and has been an active NNU committee and council member.

Professor Shaw graduated from Bethany Nazarene College (now Southern Nazarene University) with a BA in Social Science and received both an MA and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Professor Shaw has been a popular speaker through the Idaho Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, Idaho Junior Statesman Foundation, Idaho Scholars-in-the-Schools Program, numerous conferences, workshops, civics programs and presentations. He has spoken and written extensively about the U.S. Supreme Court and various court justices, constitutional law and amendments, the U.S. Presidency and the U.S. political system. He has also served as a consultant and participant with the Frank Church Conference, Len B. Jordan Symposium, as a frequent local media analyst, political party participant and volunteer for numerous non-profit organizations.



ARNOLD YTREEIDE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MASS COMMUNICATION

Professor Arnold Ytreeide began his teaching career with Northwest Nazarene College in 1993, transitioning from adjunct instructor to full-time teaching fellow in 2002 and then to a full faculty member in 2005. During his 19-year career at NNU, Professor Ytreeide has served as professor of Mass Communications and Department Chair. Additionally, he developed the Film School program, serving as director since its conception. The Film School gave his students invaluable experience in film and television production. His curricular design, extensive extra-curricular activities and strategic alliances with local and national content producers and distributors reflect his ongoing commitment to excellence in his field. For many years, the Film School produced "An Idaho Family Christmas" which was a holiday favorite for students and the community alike.

Professor Ytreeide graduated from NNU in 1994 with a BA in Religion, received an MA from Boise State University in 2004 and earned a Ph.D. from European Graduate School in Switzerland in 2011. He has received Certificates of Completion for "Producing Feature Films" and "Film/TV Directing."

WELCOME HOME

for Homecoming & Family Weekend 2021

Mark your calendar for a full schedule of events! Join NNU Connect at **NNUCONNECT.COM** and watch **NNU.EDU/HOMECOMING** for details and updates.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- 6 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Montana Billings
- 7 p.m. Fall Play

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 8 a.m. Legacy Breakfast
- 10 a.m. Alumni Awards Chapel
- 11 a.m. Black Hawk Landing
- 11:30 a.m. Alumni Awards Family & Friends Luncheons
- 2 p.m. College of Theology and Christian Ministries Panel Discussion
- 3:30 p.m. College of Theology and Christian Ministries Reception
- 4 p.m. Fall Play
- 7:30 p.m. Concert - NNU Music Dept. Showcase

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 8:30 a.m. President's Pancake Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. College of Nursing Breakout Session
- 10 a.m. College of Business Coffee & Connect
- 10 a.m. NNU Engineering 10-Year Reunion

- 11 a.m. Hawk 5K Run/Walk

- 11:30 a.m. KidZone Childcare

- 1 p.m. Reunion Luncheons
1975 & 76 • 1980 & 81
1985 & 86 • 1990 & 91
1995 & 96 • 2000 & 01
2005 & 06 • 2010 & 11
2015 & 16

- 2 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Seattle Pacific

- 3 & 4 p.m. Campus Tours

- 3-4 p.m. Meet the Poison Dart Frogs & Creepy Crawlers

- 3:30 p.m. Science & Math Associates (SMA) Reception

- 4 p.m. Fall Play

- 4:30 p.m. Paul & Jane Taylor Bench Dedication

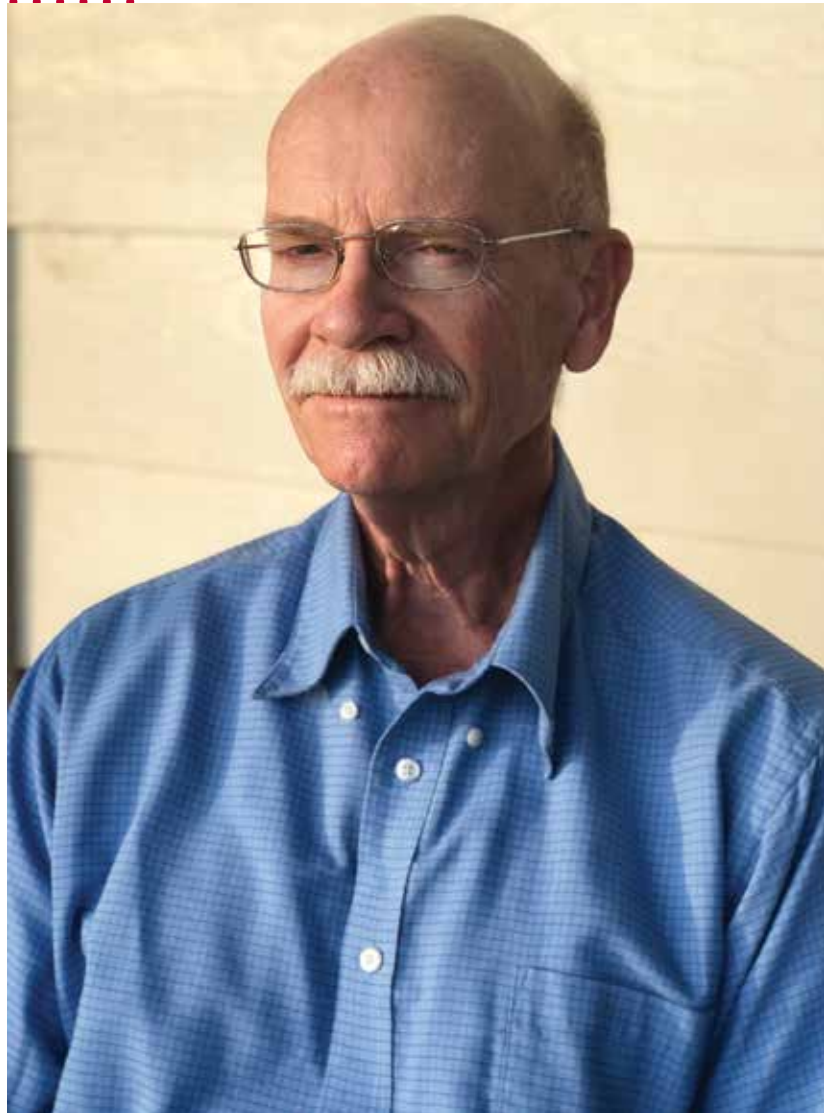
- 5-7 p.m. Food Truck Rally

- 5 - 7 p.m. Myron Finkbeiner's Sport's Silent Auction

- 7 p.m. Men's Basketball vs Bushnell

- MBB Halftime Hall of Fame Inductions

- Following MBB Overtime Party w/Bonfire



A LIFE of **SCIENCE and FAITH**

Dr. Tim P. Tooman, 2021 Alumnus of the Year

Dr. Tim P. Tooman has had a storied career as a physicist, putting his talent and heart to work for 30 years as a research scientist at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California. He has earned multiple degrees, served the nation and embraced his roles as husband and “dad” to more kids than he can count.

Tim graduated first in his class from NNC in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in physics and a minor in mathematics, and immediately joined the Vietnam War efforts. While serving as a newly commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, he simultaneously began his graduate studies at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

By the spring of 1975—three years and nine months after starting—Tim had earned his Master of Science and a Ph.D. in experimental atomic physics. Many professors in the department believe he set a record for the shortest time to earn his doctorate. In subsequent years, the NMSU physics department recognized him as one of their most distinguished graduates and he was named one of the 100 most influential graduates of the century during NMSU’s centennial.

Having completed his formal education, Tim continued to serve the U.S. Army—both on an active-duty tour and as a civilian. In 1979, he began his career as a research scientist

at Sandia National Laboratories, where he worked until his retirement in 2012. During the late Cold War years, he was on a team of “wargamers” that helped the U.S. Army and NATO allies understand how to survive and fight on the tactical nuclear battlefield while also establishing criteria for the next generation of weapons. As the Cold War ended, Tim was involved with developing part of Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative. For the next 15 years, he served as Science Liaison and Mission Controller for a climate change study program. 9/11 resulted in another shift in Tim’s activities, this time as part of a select team focused on thwarting any terrorist nuclear attack against the U.S., which resulted in two national-level awards for his “service in the national interest.”

Tim’s accomplishments also extend far beyond his professional achievements. In Livermore, Tim became active in the ministries of a local church. Later, he “filled the pulpit” as needed, performed weddings and funerals, and served as choir director for Easter and Christmas cantatas. In their early forties, Tim

and his wife, Paula, began discussing how best to serve God for the remainder of their lives. They decided to focus on overseas adoption of hard-to-place children—those who are part of large sibling groups, are older or are physically or mentally challenged. They now have sixteen children, fourteen of whom are adopted.

Since retirement, Tim and Paula have enjoyed traveling, hiking, directing a local choir and participating in an inter-church activity that brings pastors together from their community.

“NNU offers its students the extraordinary chance to develop their spiritual, intellectual and emotional lives as an integrated whole,” Dr. Tooman said. “It is a particular honor to have an institution that values not only my professional achievement but also the quality of my personal life and believes that my years since graduation are noteworthy.”

Because of his service to this nation, his community and his family, NNU is honored to present Dr. Tim P. Tooman with the 2021 Alumnus of the Year Award. 🏆

DENNIS DOAN, 2021 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



After serving the community for almost 20 years as a firefighter, Dennis Doan decided to return to school to earn his degree in business management. In 2010, shortly after being named fire chief for Boise Fire Department, he began NNU’s Adult and Professional Program in Business Administration. His time at NNU had a significant impact on his roles as a husband, father and firefighter.

Doan recently embraced the opportunity to serve a new community, accepting the position of fire chief in Gig Harbor, Washington, in February of 2021. Despite the challenges, Doan feels very fortunate to be able to give back to the community in this way.

“As a firefighter, every day is different. It is hard but very gratifying work and helps you know that you make a difference in your community,” Doan said. “When the fire department is called, we are usually responding to someone’s worst day, and it’s our job to make their bad day better.”

For his faithful service to his communities near and far, Dennis Doan is the honored recipient of the 2021 Professional Achievement Award. 🏆

PAULO SALVADOR, 2021 LEON DOAN YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD



In 2014, Paulo Salvador had the distinct honor of being a part of the first graduating class to earn a degree through NNU’s newly launched engineering program. Following graduation, Salvador immediately left for the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) to earn a graduate degree in aerospace engineering. He worked in the propulsion laboratory as a student research assistant

conducting combustion research and running experiments on rocket engines. During his free time, Salvador led the design and development of an experimental rocket engine to be used in an intercollegiate competition with the goal of reaching a target

altitude of 45,000 feet.

Hailing from Brazil, Salvador has followed his dreams from Nampa to Alabama to Texas to Seattle, pursuing a dynamic career as a propulsion design engineer at Blue Origin. There he has worked on developing and testing the BE-3 engine and the design and development of the BE-3U engine, which will be used to power the upper stage of the new 310-foot tall New Glenn rocket.

“I am humbled and honored that NNU would recognize my accomplishments when I consider all that NNU has done for me,” Salvador said. “A large part of where I am now in my life and career is due to the faculty and staff at NNU and, of course, my Lord and Savior.”

For his impressive accomplishments in his chosen field and for living out the values of NNU in every community he is a part of, NNU is pleased to present Paulo Salvador with the 2021 Leon Doane Young Alumnus Award. 🏆

CHUCK WILKES AND THE NNVers, 2021 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Reverend Chuck Wilkes graduated from NNC in 1953 and from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1956. For more than four decades, he pastored multiple congregations and

served in various roles in the Church of the Nazarene.

Retiring in 1998, he returned to Nampa and found a new passion for volunteering where his journey in ministry first began: at NNU. Seeing a need and wanting to give back to an institution that had given so much to him, Wilkes co-founded the Northwest

Nazarene Volunteers (NNVers), a group of NNU Alumni and Friends who have a heart for NNU and give of their time and talents to support the University in various capacities.

Under his leadership, the group has cleaned leaves out of gutters around campus, painted the interior and exterior of the campus' well-loved buildings, helped at Brandt Center events and responded to any and all needs around campus. No one knows how much money these men and women have saved NNU in the past three decades, but it is estimated to be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Wilkes passed away in June of 2020, but his legacy lives on in the NNVers. Because of their dedication to volunteerism, NNU is recognizing our Northwest Nazarene Volunteers and their founder Rev. Chuck Wilkes, posthumously, as the 2021 recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. 🌟

ELEVATED COMMITMENT

FOUR GENERATIONS OF LEGACY AT NNU

The Bartlow Family, Family Heritage Award

The Bartlow family has a long history with Northwest Nazarene University. Their undisputable legacy began over 80 years ago and includes more than 50 family members who have been part of the NNU community.

It all started in 1939 with two cousins. When Lucille (Bartlow) Meissner, daughter of Oscar and Martha (Fitzsimmons) Bartlow, and Don, son of Amos and Maurine (McFadden) Bartlow, arrived on campus from the small farming community of Pomeroy, Washington, they never could have imagined the ways their family and the NNU community would be intertwined for generations to come. Lucille and Don were quickly followed by their remaining siblings—Lucille's brother, Ells, and Don's brother, Wendell (Whit), who began their educational journeys at NNC in 1941.

Despite the uncertainty that accompanied World War II at that time, Oscar and Martha and Amos and Maurine deemed a college education essential to the well-being of their children. In those days, it was uncommon for parents to encourage and financially support children in pursuit of higher education.

Although Oscar discussed Asbury University for Lucille, Christian higher education was a given and NNU was the clear frontrunner. The decision was similar for Don, without the consideration of another school. And so, amidst the onset of war and a post-depression economy, the Bartlow family's connection to and integration with the university began.

Those first Bartlows at NNU met and married spouses, enjoyed basketball careers and established the family's reputation as fun-loving pranksters. First-generation attendees may have been responsible for releasing some heavy ball bearings onto the slanted floors in the Administration Building from the back row during chapel. This became the same chapel in which Whit married Wilma Webster. Don also met and married Ila Mae Johnson while at NNU; Lucille married Elmer Meissner and Ells married his high school sweetheart, Eloise Dye.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor, dreams of graduating were cut short. Don joined the Army Air Corps as a weather officer after his sophomore year; Whit returned home to help run the family farm;





Ells hitchhiked to Boise to join navy flight training as an officer. Despite the disruption of their education, the Bartlow families remained committed to NNC.

The four couples had 17 children between them, 14 of whom attended NNU. As the second Bartlow generation reached college age, NNU was the anticipated and expected next step in life and education. Few even looked at or considered other colleges. Nearly all that was earned from summer jobs, birthdays, Christmas gifts, allowances and wages went into college accounts. The sacrifices of their parents and church matching scholarships helped supplement need and demonstrate the family's commitment to a Nazarene higher education.

"Common themes for us second-generation students include the providence and provision of God in funding our collegiate education, meeting spouses, developing lifelong friendships but—most importantly—deepening our relationship with and commitment to Jesus, which our parents and grandparents had begun in us," shared Kirk Bartlow ('82). "All of us cherished our

time at NNC and many of us wondered how four years could go by so quickly."

The third generation faced significantly increased costs for higher education. Still, their parents—having experienced the benefits of an NNU education first-hand—continued to sacrifice financially so their children could attend.

Bartlow alumni across the generations have had distinguished careers that spanned disciplines. Their NNU education has prepared them to become teachers, engineers, college professors, military service men and women, doctors, bankers and pastors.

As the fourth generation begins their collegiate era, the legacy of the Bartlow family continues to be rooted in and interwoven with NNU and its future. For their elevated commitment to the university, Northwest Nazarene University honors the Bartlow family with the Family Heritage Award. 🍷



COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday, May 8, NNU held its 105th Commencement ceremonies, celebrating the graduating class of 2021. A total of 527 traditional undergraduate, graduate and non-traditional students earned their degrees.

Golden Graduates from the graduating classes of 1970 and 1971 were also honored for their accomplishments and faithfulness to Christ and reminded us of NNU's depth of tradition and history.

Dr. Michael Poe, keynote speaker for the Graduate and Professionals Studies ceremony, spoke on servant leadership and urged graduates to take up the mantle as they go forward into their careers.

Dr. David Rhodes, honorary Doctor of Divinity, provided the keynote address during the Traditional Undergraduate ceremony and encouraged graduates to embrace faithfulness, humility and sacrificial love.

"You are a gift to the world," he said. "You are a gift to the people you'll work with and go to church with. I pray that yours become lives of resurrection hope to all of those around you." 🙌



GRAD PROGRAMS RANKED NATIONALLY

NNU was recognized by [intelligent.com](https://www.intelligent.com) for three of its online graduate and professional degree programs, with its online doctorate in education program ranked #1 in the nation. The rankings are based on an assessment of 1,280 accredited colleges and universities across the U.S. Each program is evaluated on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment.

NNU's online Master of Ministry degree programs were also ranked #22 and its online Master of Education degree programs were ranked #38.

Dr. Jay Akkerman, NNU's Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies said, "We have long known that the strength and innovation of NNU's graduate programs make them some of the best in the country. We're proud of our students and alumni who are leading in their fields as creative and redemptive agents in the communities where they practice and serve."

The 2021 rankings are calculated through a scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third-party evaluations. The methodology uses an algorithm that collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to compare each university's degree program. 🙌



NEW ROLES FOR MILLER AND AKKERMAN

NNU recently announced the appointment of Grant Miller as the university's next University Chaplain and Dr. Jay Akkerman as the Assistant to the President for Congregational Engagement.

"I am confident that Grant and Jay will continue to be assets to the NNU community as they step into their new roles," NNU President Joel Pearsall said. "I look forward to the ways in which they will each contribute to the fulfillment of NNU's mission to enable our students to become God's creative and redemptive agents in the world."

Miller has been serving as NNU's Director of Community Life for the past seven years. He is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and has been the pastor to college students at College Church of the Nazarene. He previously served as a graduate assistant in Student Life and at Nampa First Church as the young adult pastor.

Akkerman has been a member of NNU's theology faculty since 2003 and currently serves as the dean of Graduate and Professional Studies. He is the co-director of Wesley Center Conferencing and is also an Ordained Elder in the Church of the Nazarene. He offers over 20 years of experience working within the church, including serving as a pastor in Idaho, Arizona and Washington. 🙌



NEW MUSIC DEPARTMENT FACULTY

The NNU Department of Music appointed two new faculty members for the 2021-22 academic year. Dr. John Dally will take the lead in Music Education and direct the Concert Band and Orchestra and Dr. Jayoung Hong will direct the piano program, teach music history and maintain a robust international performance schedule.

Dr. Dally has experience with comprehensive music programs including bands, choir, orchestra, music theory and dance. Most recently, he was the Director of Bands and Music Education at Point Loma Nazarene University where he directed concert and jazz ensembles and taught general education and music education courses.

Dr. Hong debuted at the age of 13, performing Schumann piano concerto and has performed widely throughout Asia, North America and Europe. She previously served as piano faculty of the Korea National University of Arts in South Korea, Brandon University in Canada, University of Nebraska and Blinn College in Texas.

Additionally, two current music faculty members, Quinn VanPaepeghem and Brian Kohagen, will be stepping into new roles for Fall 2021. VanPaepeghem has been named Director of Jazz Studies and Kohagen will maintain his position as Director of Conference and Events, but will add the role of Director of Commercial Music. 📖

STUDENT PLACES IN AMA COMPETITION

NNU senior Allison Bingham earned third place in the undergraduate research competition at the virtual 2021 American Marketing Association (AMA) International Collegiate Conference earlier this month. Her research was on “The Association of Social Media Advertisements with Compulsive Buying Behavior.” NNU’s AMA Collegiate Chapter was also recognized for Outstanding Chapter Planning and Outstanding Professional Development.

“I was thrilled to have Allison represent the NNU AMA Chapter by presenting her research,” Dr. Konya Weber, associate dean of the College of Business and AMA faculty advisor, said. “As the first NNU student to compete in this competition, we are exceedingly proud of her.”

During the 2021 virtual conference, AMA members participated in the Digital Bootcamp online, a two-day workshop of interactive sessions about digital marketing. This workshop was designed to guide students toward successful interviews and recruitment into future digital marketing roles. 🔥

NEW MAT PROGRAM LAUNCHES

NNU will launch a new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program August 2021. This 16-month program includes 12 months of fully online coursework and one semester of student teaching. Unlike other graduate education programs which are designed for educators to advance in their field, this program is designed for career professionals currently outside the field of education to earn their teaching certification and Master of Arts degree.

“In our current world situation, we are seeing more professionals considering a career change and wanting to enter the world of education,” said Program Director Holly Ripley. “The MAT program was developed in direct response to this growing need and will allow these individuals to build on the education they already have, earn their teaching certification and receive the preparation they need to succeed in a classroom of their own.”

NNU’s MAT program offers either elementary or secondary teacher certification. Individuals who have earned their bachelor’s degree can further their education while working around their current life and occupational demands. Cohorts begin each fall, with Fall 2021 hosting its first class.

Applications for the MAT are being accepted now. More information can be found at value.nnu.edu/graduate/mat. 🔥

ELEVATING student **PREPARATION**

Rising senior Kedrick Glinski shares about the many opportunities he has at NNU that uniquely prepare him to excel in his career pursuits and as a citizen of the world

BY KEDRICK GLINSKI, CLASS OF 2022

Growing up in Nampa, I always planned on leaving Idaho and going to college far, far away—I'm sure glad I didn't end up following through with those plans. Over the last three years, I have been constantly reassured by my decision to attend NNU, just a mile away from my childhood home.

I am now a rising senior double-majoring in Financial Economics and Political Science with a minor in Communication. I am also a member of NNU's Honors College, a competitor on the Speech and Debate Team and the incoming Student Government Association (SGA) Business Manager. All of these different roles have played a vital part in my college journey.

While studying at NNU, we are exposed to NNU's four values: transformation, truth, service and community. These values extend far beyond the classroom setting and play an essential role in developing us for our future lives. One of the primary reasons I chose to attend NNU is its focus on community; the NNU community is like none other.

From my first day on campus—move-in day—I saw just how vibrant and exciting the NNU community is. There is always something happening on campus, someone new to get to know and another memory to make.

Surprisingly, one of my favorite aspects of the NNU community was living in the freshman dorms. I never thought that living in a dorm would be one of the most fun and memorable aspects of going to college. I created so many friendships—friendships that have lasted throughout my college experience. Just as I developed amazing friendships with others while living in the dorms, I have been involved in many other facets of the NNU community.

After having absolutely zero prior speech and debate experience, I joined the NNU Speech and Debate Team my freshman year. I had the opportunity to travel across the Northwest for

regional tournaments and go to New York City and Grove City, Pennsylvania, for national tournaments. During my sophomore year, I was a semi-finalist in junior debate and placed fourth in varsity extemporaneous speaking at the National Christian College Forensics tournament.

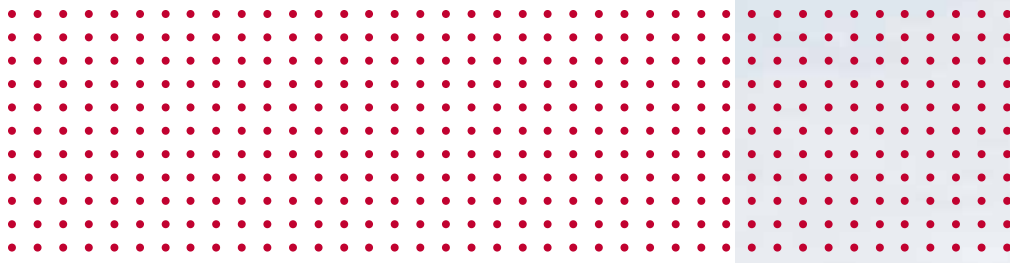
It is such a great feeling to take all of the knowledge you are learning both inside and outside of the classroom to create an excellent debate case—it's even better when you construct your arguments in a clear, concise and logical way and you can see that everything you are saying is clicking with the judge.

This year, Speech and Debate has looked a lot different. We conducted every tournament online and competed from the NNU Learning Commons due to nationwide travel restrictions. I qualified to compete in the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament and walked away with a national championship in Interviewing. I credit this victory to everything I have learned about interviewing and building a resume in my classes in the College of Business and the Communication Department.

NNU has not only given me the skills and knowledge needed to excel in speech and debate, but it has also prepared me for achieving my aspirations and future career goals.

I am a member of the NNU Honors College, which has been an amazing experience. Honors College students have a unique course sequence, which includes classes that push us to think harder about complex topics. This program is truly an interdisciplinary approach to learning, geared for students who want to take their college education to the next level.

Throughout the Honors College program, we take courses that cover some of our general education requirements and expose us to pieces of literature, worldviews and others' lived experiences that we usually wouldn't learn about in courses outside of the Honors



College. We read works from Plato and Aristotle to Jane Austen to Ursula LeGuin and Isak Asimov to Bryan Stevenson. At the completion of the program, we take two courses that teach us to become better researchers as we write a final research paper. I am writing my final research paper on how American political leaders have promoted various economic theories within their leadership and how the implementation of these theories has impacted populations of different socioeconomic statuses.

I am excited for the upcoming school year, although I am sad it will be my last year at NNU. I will serve on the NNU Student Government Association as the Business Manager and handle all of the finances for the SGA members and school clubs—I look forward to serving the NNU community in this role. I will be competing on the NNU Speech and Debate Team and writing my senior thesis for the Honors College. I will also be applying to law schools, which is scary yet exhilarating.

NNU has prepared me in so many ways that I never thought possible to achieve my future goals. After graduation, I plan on attending law school to become a criminal trial lawyer.

From learning to build logical arguments, think on my feet and be a more confident public speaker, being a part of the Speech and Debate Team has given me an abundance of skills that I hope to utilize throughout my future career. The Honors College has exposed me to new ways of thinking and understanding the world that will help me be a better advocate for the communities around me. I might only get to be on campus for another year, but I know NNU has provided me a network and community that I can always call home. 🍷



NIGHTHAWKS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Nighthawks enjoyed their best season in the program's Division II history, qualifying for the NCAA postseason for the first time ever during the shortened campaign. NNU finished the year 13-5, winning two games in the NCAA West Regional to advance all the way to the Sweet 16. Senior guard Ezekiel Alley led the GNAC with 19.9 points per game and was named to the NABC DII All-West District Team. 🔥



MEN'S SOCCER

The Nighthawks played seven official matches and three scrimmages/exhibitions during the spring season, going 4-2-1 in the counting contests including a 1-0 victory over Saint Martin's on Senior Day to cap the campaign. NNU also sprung an upset in an exhibition match at Division I Grand Canyon in January, taking a 2-1 victory over the Lopes. 🔥



VOLLEYBALL

The Nighthawks played to a 6-9 mark during the spring season. NNU had two three-match win streaks during the year, including four victories over Colorado Christian. In one match against the Cougars, junior middle blocker Tayler Markland tied the NNU rally-scoring record for blocks in a match with 12. 🔥



WOMEN'S SOCCER

NNU was unstoppable during the spring, executing a perfect 11-0-0 season. The Nighthawks recorded seven shutouts in their 11 matches, including six of the final seven. Overall on the year, NNU outscored their opponents a staggering 30-5 while averaging 19 shots per game and allowing just 5.7. Senior forward Rikki Myers ended her outstanding career second in program history in both goals and points. 🔥



WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

The NNU women had multiple program top-ten marks during the outdoor season, highlighted by freshman Kinsey Langin setting a new program record in the pole vault with a mark of 12'8". At the GNAC Outdoor Championships, senior Bethany Danner won the 10,000m run with a time of 37:09.29, which is third all-time at NNU. Junior Kalen Johnson finished third in the same event, while senior Lauren Wuertz placed second in the 400m. Danner and Langin were both named USTFCCCA All-Region. 🔥



MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

In the outdoor season, the Nighthawks achieved dozens of program top-ten marks and junior Tyler Shea set a new program record in the 5,000m with a mark of 14:36.30. The men finished fourth at the GNAC Outdoor Championships, including senior Logan Blake defending his 2019 title in the 400m with a winning time of 48.41 seconds. Shea and freshman teammates Dylan Tidwell and Brody Monson were named USTFCCCA All-Region. During the brief indoor season, junior Colton Burr was named the West Region Field Athlete of the Year. 🔥



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NNU went 7-7 during the pandemic-shortened year, including four wins in their final six games of the season. After averaging 25 points per game over the final weekend, sophomore forward Nyalam Thabach was named the GNAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week. 🏀



MEN'S GOLF

During the 2021 spring season, the Nighthawks achieved a feat for the first time in program history: qualifying for NCAA Regionals as a team. Sophomore Grayson Giboney and senior Isaac Emerson were named Second Team All-GNAC, while Lane Strand was selected as the GNAC Freshman of the Year. 🏌️



WOMEN'S GOLF

NNU finished in the top three at four events during the spring, including a win at the LC State Spring Invitational and a runner-up finish at the GNAC Championships. Senior Taylor Entenman, freshman Madison Gridley, senior Hannah Holloway, senior Ragan McGilvery, and freshman Paige Vancil were all named Second Team All-GNAC. 🏌️



BASEBALL

The Nighthawks had the best season in program history, and arguably for any team in NNU's Division II history. NNU went 35-10, claiming the GNAC regular season title, GNAC tournament championship, NCAA West Region title, and finished in the top six at the Division II College World Series. Grant Kerry was named an NCBWA All-American, consensus First Team All-Region selection and the GNAC Newcomer of the Year. Max Holtzclaw, Shawn Grandmont and Kyle Ethridge were consensus First Team All-Region and All-GNAC picks, while Ben Johnson, Colton Moore, Ryan Dearing, Blake McFadden, John Gonzalez and Haden Keller were also named All-GNAC. In addition, Joe Schaefer was named the West Region and GNAC Coach of the Year. 🏟️



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SOFTBALL

The Nighthawks made history this year, equaling the program record for wins in a season while taking their first-ever NCAA Championships victory with a 2-1 win over Central Washington. NNU finished the campaign with an overall record of 31-14 and an 11-5 mark in conference play, good enough to claim the GNAC regular season title for the second time in school history. Sidney Booth, Brittany Genuardi and Maia McNicoll were each named All-Americans, while Genuardi was named the D2CCA West Region and GNAC Player of the Year. Booth was named the GNAC Pitcher of the Year, while Ivy Hommel, Tori Hensley and Abigail Gagnon earned All-Region honors. Rich Wagner was named the GNAC Coach of the Year. 🏟️



2021 GRADS SHARE *their* ELEVATED OUTLOOK



“NNU has given me a great stepping stone to leap into [aerospace] industries, by allowing me to get hands-on experience working with spacecraft through undergraduate research projects, providing a good educational experience through great professors, and by providing connections and guidance in helping me navigate into my dream career.” — BEN CAMPBELL, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING



“During my time at NNU, I have developed many relationships with students and faculty that will last me a lifetime and I have also strengthened my beliefs. I feel prepared for life in the next chapter and I have the support of NNU and my time spent here to thank.”

— JAIDYN KINNEEVEAUK, BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS, MARKETING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



“I’ve been holistically transformed at NNU. I might not be the perfect student, but I am far better than when I came in. Spiritually, I’ve grown all over the place, thanks to friends and professors. I know that regardless of what happens in the future, I have my strong relationship with God and an excellent interdisciplinary skillset to back me up.” — MOISES MARTINEZ, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY, PREMED & HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS



“NNU taught me that you can grow in all aspects of your life. I not only grew intellectually, but mentally and spiritually. You can accomplish your goals while helping others do the same along the way. Empowering others can and will create a chain reaction.”

— ANTONIO “DEL” DE LA TORRE, MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



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